

*School Library Number*

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Mississippi State Library Commission

Chapter 131, Code 1930

### BOARD MEMBERS

T. M. Hederman, Jr., Chairman.....	Jackson
Mrs. Robert C. Pitard.....	Jackson
Miss Frances Davis.....	Hattiesburg
Mrs. Julia Baylis Starnes.....	Jackson
Miss Eleanor Harkins.....	Columbus

### STAFF

Mrs. Eunice Eley, Executive Secretary.....	Jackson
Mrs. Myrna T. Burnett, Assistant.....	Jackson

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### I. School Libraries

1. The Junior High School Library—Barbara Chalfant.....	3
2. Elementary Library service in a city school system Sara Hunt Baskerville.....	4
3. Alcorn County Library serves the schools Augusta B. Richardson.....	5
4. The library in the boarding school—Sister M. Claudia.....	6
5. Book selection for high schools.—Mary Joan Finger.....	6
6. Getting teacher cooperation in the school library Margaret Cathey .....	8
7. What the circulating library means to the Country schools Rosalie Savery .....	8

### II. Library Training

1. The outlook for librarianship—Anita M. Hostetter.....	9
2. Library recruiting .....	11

### III. The Gulf Coast Library Association—Maria Person.....11

### IV. State News .....12

### V. Library Development Fund Campaign.....13

### VI. State Library Program.....14

## THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

By

Barbara Chalfant, Biloxi High School Librarian

---

Located halfway between the first and second floors, the Biloxi Junior High School Library is a large, attractive room furnished in light oak with tables and chairs to match. Book shelves, catalog files and all furnishings are standard library equipment. At the end of the Library there are two conference rooms and one workroom. There is a seating capacity for over one hundred pupils. There is an experienced teacher in charge of this room working under the supervision of the senior high school librarian who has charge of the organization of this new library.

The main problem connected with the library is the acquisition of books for the shelves. This is being done in different manners. The first one used was the magazine subscription drive that was sponsored by the Parent Teachers' Association with the cooperation of teachers and students. The students sold the subscriptions, and the dealer paid a certain percentage of the sales to the library. Over three hundred dollars was made in this way, and with additional money appropriated by the school board, an order for three hundred books was placed. In ordering these books the librarian asked each teacher for a list of books that he would like in his department. The book list was made largely from Standard Catalog for High School Libraries and from Children's Catalog. At this time there were many offers of donated books. Only these books that were approved editions on the standard lists were accepted.

After the first book order was sent, all the supplies necessary for the preparation of the volumes for the shelves were ordered. Two students from each period study hall were trained for the work of assistant librarian for a number of weeks in the senior high school library. They were taught first, the Dewey Decimal system, then how to read the shelves, and last how to keep the circulation desk. Two students learned to letter books with an electric pencil.

After the books arrived they were prepared for the shelves by the librarian. The student assistants helped in many different ways—opening the books properly, pasting book pockets and date due slips, lettering and shellacking the books. All work was done in the Senior High School Library. Wilson cards are used in the card catalog.

In February, the books were placed on the shelves, and in this month the P.T.A. sponsored a tag day which meant more books that were badly needed. This order consisted of two hundred new titles, and at the end of the session over five hundred volumes had been acquired for the library.

At the present time, under the direction of the school library and P.T.A. committees, a book drive is being conducted in the school. Each student is being asked to bring the price of a book, and with the help of the librarian, he is being allowed to select the book that he wishes to give. His name will be placed on an attractive book plate in the front of the book, and he will be the first one to read it after it is placed on the shelves. There has been a great deal of interest shown in this campaign and so far \$275 has been obtained. In addition to this activity, plans are being made for a night program consisting of several parts arranged by four teachers, and one of the local civic clubs is working on plans for a dance to be given for the benefit of the library. Great stress is being put on adding only books from approved, standard lists.

After an adequate book collection has been built up, the librarian with the cooperation of the teachers in both the Junior high and high schools plans quite an extensive reading guidance program. From the time a student enters the seventh grade until he graduates, a complete record will be kept of his reading, and at regular intervals, these records will be examined in order to determine the student's weak and strong points in the number and kind of books that he reads. Then, after a conference with his teachers, plans will be made for improving the reading tastes and ability of the student.

This reading program aims to stimulate reading interests that will carry over into college days for some and make better public library patrons of all.

This splendid school library system is not the work of the librarian alone but is made possible by the full cooperation and support of the school administration and teaching staff.

---

## **ELEMENTARY LIBRARY SERVICE IN A CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**By**

**Sara Hunt Baskerville, Field Librarian, Jackson Elementary Schools**

---

Each of the nine elementary schools in Jackson has its own book collection. The two field librarians have worked out a schedule so that a day is spent in each school once a week. On that day all the children in the third through sixth grades visit the library and check out books. Each group has a thirty minute period in the library to find their books and read magazines. Children are encouraged to check out two books, but they are allowed more if they wish them. The first and second grades do not visit the library, but their teachers check out books for their reading tables.

When it is at all feasible the libraries are left unlocked and teachers or students may use the books and magazines for reference. No books are supposed to be checked out when the librarian is not there.

Mrs. Viola Lake, through her generosity provides the money for the books. The supplies, salaries, rebinding, and magazines are paid for out of the school fund. Some of the elementary schools have received books through Mrs. Lake's money for years and have built up larger collections than the newer libraries. However, the smaller libraries are being built up as rapidly as possible. All the buying and preparation of the books is done at a central office.

---

### ALCORN COUNTY LIBRARY SERVES THE SCHOOLS

By

Mrs. Augusta B. Richardson, County Librarian

---

THE ALCORN COUNTY LIBRARY gives direct service to the thirty-four schools in the county with the bookmobile, driven by the librarian, making monthly trips to each school. It takes two weeks to make the rounds going every other day.

The books are charged to the teacher, with the pupils helping to make the selection. The schools requested this system, and with just one person on the bookmobile it works better for her. Usually one pupil has charge of the library books for each room; making a list of the books received and checking against it to clear the record when books are returned. She also keeps the circulation record. Books are charged to the school for a month but may be renewed as long as they are being used.

During the summer months the bookmobile continues its regular schedule, leaving books in deposit stations run by volunteers, checking directly from the bookmobile shelves and visiting the home demonstration clubs.

During last school term 12,924 books were charged to the thirty-four county schools. The circulation for that period was 36,278. This is an average of 1,846 books checked out each month, with an average monthly circulation of 5,183 in the schools.

Teachers and pupils in the county may come to the central library in Corinth and make their own selection of books.

It is generally agreed that the circulating library is a great improvement over the system of the small, inadequate individual school library.

## **THE LIBRARY IN THE BOARDING SCHOOL ST. MARY OF THE PINES, CHATAWA**

**Sister M. Claudia, Librarian**

---

St. Mary of the Pines Library serves a clientele of about two hundred members including teachers, high school students, and students of the elementary grades.

Located about fifteen miles from the nearest public library, it endeavors to supply both teachers and students with books and periodicals needed to supplement classroom materials.

Our book collection numbers about six thousand volumes while our periodicals reach the fifty mark.

Though we have a central cataloging system, such books and magazines which are frequently used for reference in the art, music, and home economics departments, are kept in their respective departments.

Our publicity problem is well taken care of by our school paper, the CHATAWAY, and by the cooperation of the teachers and students.

The CHATAWAY'S editorial staff keeps in touch with our latest additions and includes appraisals on several books in each issue of the paper.

The teachers, each in turn, work out projects with their classes which send their students to the library searching for material. Even the book jackets are utilized in the making of posters which are displayed in the classrooms with significant captions.

Photographs and biographical sketches of the authors, when obtainable, and appraisals of their books are pasted in the books by way of introducing the students to the respective authors and to acquaint them with other peoples' views on the works in hand.

Motion pictures based on good classics are shown in the school auditorium.

Contests are given from time to time such as having the students identify authors and titles with catch phrases selected from them.

The library forms a vital unit in the school where there is no lack of interesting activity.

---

## **BOOK SELECTION FOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

**By**

**Mary Joan Finger, Clarksdale High School Librarian**

---

Book selection gives us as much genuine pleasure as any phase of library work. The only real drawback to its pleasure is to find there isn't

enough money with which to buy all the books we would like to buy. After an order list has been made, we find ourselves cutting it in half and then possibly cutting that in half to make it fit the budget. But, maybe, such elimination isn't a bad practice after all. By the time the order is finished, we feel that it surely includes only good books and books that will be used. The best selected book order occasionally includes a "dud", but taken as a whole it should supply books that definitely feed a demand.

The making of our order lists is a growing affair. Each teacher makes requests at any time during the year and these requests are filed until an order is made. Fairly large orders are made once or twice annually, always reserving part of the budget for emergencies that might arise. When these orders are made, all requests are considered as a whole and as many books as possible are ordered for each department. Subjects not considered in the books we have are kept in mind but books with the greatest demand and most assurance of being used are given preference. For example, two projects, used in both junior and senior high schools, one in the fall and the other in the spring, which required additional books, were given first place this year. Included in the order, also, were books on various phases of the war, of interest, especially, to the boys who were soon to be leaving for the Armed Service. Some books were for those of us left at home who want to keep up with what is happening. Always we include several books "just for spice."

At another time, perhaps next year, biography will receive first place on an order, at another short stories. We need more science books and more plays, etc.

Sets and duplicates are avoided.

Publicity of available materials spurs the interest of both teachers and pupils. Advance notices of new books and pamphlets of interest to certain teachers is directed to them. Advertising material left on top of the library desk frequently draws the attention of pupils and often the result is a request to "order". They ask for more books on certain subjects and by certain authors. Notations, which are made of each of these requests and observations, are filed and considered when a new order for books is made.

The following aids are most useful to us in making selections:

- A Growing file of teacher and pupil requests.
- Standard Catalog for High-School Libraries H. W. Wilson Co.  
(This is really a handbook and indispensable)
- A.L.A. 500 Books for the Senior High School Library
- A.L.A. Graded Lists of Books for Children
- National Council of Teachers of English. Books for Home Reading, for High School and Junior High School
- Books New York Herald Tribune
- The Booklist A.L.A.
- Library List for Mississippi High Schools
- New York Times Book Review
- Saturday Review of Literature
- Subscription Books Bulletin

## **GETTING TEACHER COOPERATION IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**By**

**Margaret Cathey, Hattiesburg High School Librarian**

---

The time has come when we must do away with the concept of one librarian in a school and substitute for it the concept of every teacher a librarian. Only through definite cooperation between teacher and librarian can this be accomplished.

One way this cooperation may be secured is through occasional visits of the teacher to the class room and frequent visits made by the teacher to the library. Friendly relationship between teacher and librarian help to bring about a feeling of working together. The teacher must acquaint herself with some of the unusual resources of the library. She must see and use the library books that she suggests for pupil use.

Another step forward is the practice among teachers of sending copies of their assignments to the library before giving them to students. This prevents the first student who reaches the library from getting all available material while the rest of the class goes without. If the librarian knows what is being emphasized in class and the need for supplementary material she is then able to substitute books dealing with material textbooks lack.

In our school we are encouraging teacher and student access to book collections during class periods. Books are taken to the class room where they remain for the teaching of a given unit. Collections are placed in class rooms on days when teachers are making collateral reading assignments. Here teachers and students can work together.

Teacher cooperation is secured by asking for teachers' suggestions in making book orders. Teachers are invited to the library to use the book selection aids and to discuss their book needs with the librarian.

---

## **WHAT THE CIRCULATING LIBRARY MEANS TO COUNTY SCHOOLS**

**By**

**Rosalie Savery, Elementary School Supervisor, Lee County**

---

In Lee County today we feel that Santa Claus has become a permanent resident in our midst. Certainly, the Bookmobile on its biweekly visits to each school carries as many nice things to our boys and girls as were ever found in Santa's packs!



Each school maintains its own reference library, consisting of sets of encyclopedias for every two classrooms above the third grade, dictionaries, atlases, anthologies, Bibles, and copies of supplementary textbooks. These books the children need to have access to at all times for ready reference.

On the Bookmobile travels a variety of material. Of course, the major portion of the books there are "for fun", and the more than 100,000 circulation we had last year testifies to the fact the children really did find them fun. However, one whole section is devoted to supplementary material to augment information given in the texts to make classes in literature, science, history, geography, health, home economics, and manual arts more enjoyable. Then, there is one shelf devoted entirely to professional books for teachers — new books on teaching of spelling, reading, language, arithmetic; recent publications on child study; books on current trends in curriculum, etc.

We have figures to show how the school personnel has used the Bookmobile books — an average of 27 books per pupil and 12 professional books per teacher last year, but figures are cold. The happy faces that greet each visit of the Bookmobile; the sparkle of a boy's eyes as he tells about the "Best book I ever read"; the eagerness with which each new book is received; the zeal with which children work to learn how to read so they can read the Nicodemus books by themselves; the contributions of interesting bits of information to the classes; the improvement in a teacher's techniques of teaching — these are the real evidences of the effectiveness of our program.

Before the days of the County Circulating Library each school made some effort to have a library; the larger schools succeeding to a limited degree and the smaller schools not at all. Now, for the first time rural children really know what pretty books, and interesting books look like and teachers have the joy of many books on a given subject instead of only the text book as formerly. We consider the money spent on the County Library one of the best educational investments that the County could make.

---

### THE OUTLOOK IN LIBRARIANSHIP

By

Anita M. Hostetter, Secretary, Board of Education for Librarianship  
American Library Association, Chicago

(Written for Library News)

---

This year for the first time since 1940, the library schools have enrolled more students than in the preceding year. The total increase, however, is too slight to relieve the prevalent shortage of professional librarians to any considerable extent. The number of graduates who will be

ready for library positions in the next few months is still below the number in 1942.

The shortage of librarians cannot be attributed wholly to wartime conditions. It is true that the library profession has sent its quota of men and women into service in the Army and Navy, that many librarians are engaged in library service for the armed forces, and that many others have left library positions for work in defense industries or other war-related activities. But it is equally true that even before the war, a steady demand for librarians enabled the library schools to place their graduates year after year, and the need was insistent for librarians with excellent preparation in some subject field. The pressure of wartime services of libraries has intensified the lack of a backlog of professional personnel which might be drawn upon in times of emergency.

The library schools are continuing intensive efforts to recruit young people to librarianship. State library associations, library clubs and library school alumni are sending attractive recruiting material to counselors of young people in high schools and colleges. Some of them are scheduling speakers before student groups and are arranging visits to libraries so that young people may see the interesting work of libraries in operation and may gain some insight into librarianship as a stimulating career.

No means of recruiting is so effective as the personal contact of an alert librarian with promising young people in his own community. Libraries will need larger numbers of professional librarians if their important services are to expand as present trends indicate. Even more important than the need for numbers is the need for librarians who are highly qualified by education and personality to render the fullest measure of library service. Young men and women who are attracted to books and are genuinely interested in people will find in library work personal satisfaction and intellectual stimulation. At present, there is urgent need for librarians with expert knowledge of the physical sciences and the social sciences.

Libraries in the future will need reference librarians, catalogers, librarians for service to children and young people in public libraries and school libraries. Their plans also call for librarians in positions which require special competence and preparation — library administrators, specialists in subject resources, extension librarians for rural service, librarians in adult education — including readers advisers, community workers, and group leaders — public relations specialists, hospital libraries, and librarians to develop new resources, such as film, visual materials, maps, pamphlets, and sound recordings.

The outlook in librarianship is excellent. What can the librarians of Mississippi do to interest the highest type of young people in this profession?

## **LIBRARY RECRUITING**

---

The Board of Education for Librarianship of the A.L.A. reports that 18,000 capable young people must be recruited to the profession within the next six years. Mississippi should furnish a share of these recruits. Those in the state who are interested in the study of library science may get information about library schools by writing to the State Library Commission. Schools in the state that are offering courses this summer are Belhaven College, Mississippi Southern and University of Mississippi. Mississippi State College for Women offers standard courses in the regular school terms.

Librarians, teachers and others who are associated with young people can do them and the cause of librarianship a great service by calling to their attention the need for more trained librarians.

---

## **THE GULF COAST LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

By

**Maria Person, Harrison County Librarian**

---

Since there is a concentration of librarians on the Gulf Coast the advisability of organizing an association has been considered for some time. When Mrs. Eley, Executive Secretary of the State Library Commission, visited us in February we decided to form this organization.

A dinner meeting was held at the Great Southern Hotel in Gulfport on the evening of February 9 with an attendance of eleven. After a social period we discussed the value of such an organization in bringing about a feeling of unity among librarians, particularly during this period of restricted travel when attendance at state library association meetings will be limited.

Mrs. Eley spoke of her recent trip to the A.L.A. conference and solicited the cooperation of librarians in raising our state quota of the Library Development Fund; this campaign to be promoted in April. She also spoke of plans for the improvement of state library service to be presented at the next session of the Legislature, and which librarians will be asked to support.

It was decided that this association would be an informal organization, not to take the place of the state association membership but rather to bring about more friendly relationships among librarians in this section. It is hoped that this association will foster the development of better library service and promote cooperation among librarians.

Miss Maria Person was asked to serve as temporary chairman until another meeting was called to form a permanent organization.

On the evening of March 17 ten members met at the Great Southern Hotel and formed the association with Maria Person as president and Barbara Chalfant, Biloxi High School Librarian as head of a program committee. Other officers will be elected at a future meeting.

Those attending the first meeting were:

Mrs. J. W. Bradley, Gulfport Public Library  
Miss Barbara Chalfant, Biloxi High School Library  
Miss Maria Person, Harrison County Library, Gulfport  
Miss Reba Turner, Veterans Facility, Biloxi  
Mrs. Helen B. Merrill, Senior Librarian, U. S. Naval Training Center, Gulfport  
Mrs. Margaret Beaty, Assistant Librarian, U. S. Naval Training Center, Gulfport  
Miss Mary Throckmorton, Librarian, Keesler Field, Biloxi  
Mrs. Sallie H. Draper, Librarian, Gulf Coast Military Academy, Gulfport  
Miss Lillye D. Harding, Gulfport High School Library  
Mrs. Josie Rankin, War Price and Rationing Board, Gulfport  
Mrs. Eunice Eley, Secretary, State Library Commission, Jackson

Those attending the second meeting who were not present at the first were:

Mrs. Stella Buckles, Long Beach Public Library  
Miss Louise Crawford, Bay Saint Louis Public Library  
Miss Eulless Rogers, Pascagoula High School Library  
Miss Margaret Turner, Bay Saint Louis High School Library

Those present at the first meeting who were unable to attend the second meeting were Misses Harding and Throckmorton, Mesdames Miller, Beaty, Draper, and Eley.

---

#### STATE NEWS

---

Mrs. Wayne Leech, Librarian in the Aberdeen High School Library, after taking undergraduate courses in library science at Ole' Miss, will enter library school this summer.

Miss Florence Tipton has been appointed to the position of assistant librarian in Central High School, Jackson. Miss Tipton has formerly been High School Librarian in Dyersburg and Memphis, Tennessee.

Miss Elizabeth Williams, formerly librarian at Camp Van Dorn has been transferred to an Alabama camp.

Miss Linette Johnson has been transferred from the Greenville Air Base Library to a similar position in a Florida camp.

An example of splendid cooperation between the public and school libraries is seen in Aberdeen. The public library is located near the

schools and serves students as well as adults. Here, also, is one of the few libraries for negroes. Both the white and negro library buildings are a gift from Dr. W. A. Evans. The negro library, located near their school is giving excellent service.

---

## LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT FUND CAMPAIGN

By

Eunice Eley, Executive Secretary, Mississippi Library Commission

---

### TO: LIBRARIANS AND FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

By this time you have received a letter and pamphlet from Miss Bethany Swearingen, who was appointed by the executive board of the Mississippi Library Association as State Director of this Campaign. If you have read the A.L.A. Bulletin, The Library Journal, Wilson Library Bulletin and other library publications recently you may have been impressed with the urgent need for us as library leaders to take some action.

You may be asking these questions: Just what is this campaign? What does it mean to Mississippi? How are Mississippi libraries and librarians affected by it and why should we take part in it?

Last January the American Library Association called a meeting in Chicago of state library leaders to discuss plans for better recognition of libraries by our national Congress. The board of the Mississippi State Library Commission delegated me to represent our state at this conference.

After a two-day discussion of the need for better libraries throughout the nation and of the imperative need for federal aid to equalize library service, the following plans were made.

To raise a fund of \$105,000 to keep a library representative in Washington for a four-year period. Immediately the thought of "lobbying" comes to mind. Well, what is wrong with lobbying? As Mr. Vitz, the President of the A.L.A., said at the conference, "Lobbying has had a bad connotation only because there have been some bad lobbyists." We know that most important measures that are passed have representatives to give information and to keep the need before members of Congress. Public library service, just as public education, is of national concern. Individual states cannot make their needs felt as strongly as one representative who is there all the time to watch for just the right time and to give just the necessary information regarding the need for better public library support.

In addition to the salary for this Washington representative these funds will cover salary for secretarial help, office rent, supplies and necessary travel; also it will enable the American Library Association to

carry on, in the interest of all libraries, a national public relations program.

The Washington representative will aid in the promotion of legislation favorable to libraries in all states. This will include school and public libraries.

As camp libraries are closed certain equipment will be declared surplus and may be given or sold at very reduced prices. This will include thousands of library books, shelving, desks, filing cases, typewriters and other equipment needed by libraries. The Washington representative will keep in touch with the plans for disposal of these surplus properties and will inform us of steps to take in securing what we need.

We can readily see that our state has much to gain by participating in this national program for better libraries. The funds requested have been allocated among the different states according to the number of librarians in each. **WHAT IS THE MISSISSIPPI QUOTA?**

Our states is asked to raise \$440, which is a small amount compared with most states. **ARE WE GOING TO DO OUR PART?** As a matter of state pride we do not want to fail to raise our share of these funds. We can easily do this without undue hardship on any one person if we each do our share. The amount suggested for each contributor is four per cent of one month's salary. This is not an arbitrary figure. Many may not be able to meet this figure and a less amount will be just as gladly received. We know the low standard of salaries and will be glad to receive any smaller amount. As a matter of interest we hope that all of those solicited in this way may want to have even a small part in this state effort.

I have been asked by the executive board of the Mississippi Library Association to serve as treasurer of this fund and will receive contributions and send receipts. Let's take **MISSISSIPPI OVER THE TOP** in this Campaign.

Report of the progress of this campaign will be made in the July issue of Library News.

---

### STATE LIBRARY PROGRAM

In response to inquiries from librarians and others who are interested in the bill to be presented at the next session of legislature, we answer through Library News.

The state program is being very carefully studied and a great deal of thought and planning is being done by the Legislative Committee of the Mississippi Library Association, with Miss Frances Davis as chairman. Definite plans will soon be in a form to be printed and sent out.

The Library Commission must be greatly strengthened and given adequate funds to do the work for which it was established. The Com-

mission must have a book collection sufficient to answer the many calls that come in. In addition there should be better organized local library service.

You, as librarians, trustees and interested citizens, can aid in the establishment of better libraries by showing your interest and willingness to cooperate. In fact, this program will not be successful without your support. Are you willing to do a little work right now? If so please do this:

1. Keep us informed of your change of address for the summer. This is true particularly for school librarians.
2. Send in a list of several people in your community, or county whom you think will be interested in better libraries and who will be willing to give leadership to this movement. This will be a very definite contribution on your part. This list may be a few of your best library patrons, club leaders, or other civic-minded citizens.

Please do this right now before you forget. Thank you!